

**« EMPOWERMENT EN ACTION » HYBRID SEMINAR
BOURSE DU TRAVAIL, SAINT-DENIS, OCTOBER 9-10, 2014**

Biographies of American Experts

Clara Waloff



Clara Waloff is a community-based artist and educator whose artwork focuses on education and human development – both art forms in of themselves!

Clara collaborates with artists, young and old, in a variety of media, including murals, puppets, masks, printmaking, bookmaking, quilting, and photography. She has worked throughout NYC, across the United States, and in Latin America. Clara joined City Lore as a teaching artist in 2009 and has also worked with BRIC Arts/Media/Brooklyn, LEAP, El Puente, the P.S. 56 Artists & Neighbors Collaborative, and Bauen Camp. She received her B.A. from NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study, with a concentration in community art and education, Latin American Studies, and Studio Art. Clara will receive her Master's in Community-Based Learning from Bank Street College in 2012.

Jacqueline Kennedy



Coordinator, Community Mobilization

As the Community Mobilization Coordinator at the Brownsville Partnership, Jacqueline facilitates community mobilization and engagement activities within the Brownsville community. She also manages resident leadership initiatives including the Community Planning Partner Program. Jacqueline's interest in community development began in her own neighborhood, where she worked as an intern at a community-based not for profit organization.

Jacqueline expanded her knowledge of community development in low-income communities while consulting at the San Diego Foundation and serving as Assistant Project Manager for a local nonprofit affordable housing developer. Jacqueline originally joined the Community Solutions team

as an intern for the Brownsville Partnership, where she consulted on Special Projects in Brownsville before serving as the Outreach Coordinator.

Jacqueline holds a BA in Sociology and an MPA in Nonprofit Management and Policy.

Quentin Walcott



Quentin Walcott is Director of CONNECT's Training Institute and the Community Empowerment Program. At CONNECT, a New York City based organization dedicated to ending family and gender violence, Quentin also spearheads the Male Anti-Violence initiatives, where he creatively develops educational and training programs to cultivate participation and leadership by men in the anti-violence movement. Recent projects include the Verizon Joint Labor Management Committee initiative, Men & Women as Allies, a collaborative project that includes CWA Cornell University's ILR School, for Verizon management and craft from CWA Locals 1106 & 1108, which creates awareness on the connections between Domestic violence, Bullying and Workplace violence. As a convener of the newly created V-Day Men's Committee, he developed a curriculum and training for young adult males that examined violence against women and girls at V-Day's New York Stop the Violence Festival. Quentin and his team of anti-violence educators have launched new city-wide network and workshops for men called Men@Work, looking to transform men and women from bystanders to allies to activists against family and gender violence.

Quentin trained, mentored by Dr. John Aponte has facilitated Batterer's Intervention groups throughout New York City for over 12 years. Quentin is currently the Co-Chair of the Batterers Intervention Workers Task Force, a committee of men and women that run program batterers programs throughout New York City.

Quentin has previously worked with the Educational Alliance Early Head Start, piloting their Father Involvement Program and Southern Queens Park Association's Families In Need Preventive Services Program as a teen group facilitator and Domestic Violence Specialist. Quentin has a wealth of experience facilitating groups for young and adult males on masculinity, manhood development, fathering, batterer's intervention and accountability. Quentin combines his experience working with social agencies and several years of human rights work Harlem, Brooklyn and Queens bringing a new and fresh perspective to the work to end family violence.

With Quentin's combined prevention and intervention experience he has developed ThinkFirst! groups for men to address issues ranging from batterers intervention, fathering, and manhood development. ThinkFirst! is unique in that it is one of only a few men's programs that accept volunteer and self-referrals in New York City and is independent of the criminal legal system.

Donovan Richards

District 31 - Council Member – Democrat Chair - Committee on Environmental Protection

Prior to his election in February of 2013, Councilman Donovan Richards Jr. spent the last decade fighting to improve the lives of all New Yorkers. His diligence in public service led to a strong track



record as a spokesperson and advocate. This long record of success and advocacy, along with his dedication to community, has led to his becoming representative of the 31st Council District.

Since childhood, Councilman Richards has been committed to public service at home and abroad. He served with a mission in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on behalf of St. Albans Congregational Church. This trip was a turning point in his understanding of what it really means to serve the community.

Although initially he admittedly had little interest in politics, a tragic circumstance soon led to a reevaluation of his priorities. In March of 2003, his childhood friend, Darnell Patterson, was fatally shot in front of his own home. Councilman Richards decided he wouldn't let Darnell die in vain, and became a positive force in the community.

Shortly after Darnell's death, Councilman Richards attended a meeting hosted by the previous Councilman, James Sanders Jr., regarding gun violence in the community. His outspoken testimony at this forum caught the attention of the Council Member. He would join the former Council Member's staff that November, where over the course of a decade, he would work in every capacity from intern to Chief of Staff.

After he was elected as Councilman of the 31st District, Councilman Richards and his staff hit the ground running, with no intention of slowing down. Councilman Richards has already managed to achieve many major victories for his district; all while facing the enormous challenge of rebuilding the community post Hurricane Sandy.

Councilman Richards called out New York City when the plan was to leave homeowners impacted by Hurricane Sandy without reimbursement, stood up to the MTA for planning to cut services during the recovery, and created the Sandy Tracker Bill legislation, designed to protect our city from the scams and transparency issues that have plagued other disaster recoveries. He won fierce budget battles that have protected daycare centers, afterschool programs, firehouses, and libraries from proposed closures. He has allocated extra funding to every school in the district and already brought a Workforce 1 Career Center to District 31. Councilman Donovan Richards has been a voice for the people of New York City's 31st District.

In 2014, Councilman Richards was appointed by Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito to chair the committee on Environmental Protection which will help shape policies to create a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable city.

Moving forward, Councilman Richards looks forward to representing voters in Rosedale, Laurelton, Springfield Gardens and Far Rockaway in the New York City Council for years to come.

Amy Carroll



Amy Carroll is the Deputy Director at the Center for Popular Democracy, where she coordinates the policy, research, and fundraising work on racial justice, workers' rights, and immigrants' rights campaigns across the country. Previously, she served as the Legal Director at Make the Road New York, a membership organization of more than 11,000 Latino immigrants in New York State. She is a lawyer, and specializes in employment, housing, and civil rights issues.

Natasha Jones



Natasha Jones has served as a Youth Program Coordinator at The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center since May 2010. She served as a liaison between several community based organizations and the NYC Department of Education to provide children and families with support and guidance. At The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, Natasha provides supervision to staff overseeing the Peer Leadership Internship programming and continues to support young people in their educational and career goals, artistic creativity and development of their whole selves.

Milan Taylor



Milan is skilled in the areas of community engagement, grass roots organizing, and youth advocacy.

Milan has always been active in community organizing, having been appointed to Queens Community Board 14, attending various community meetings, and ultimately becoming aware of the glaring lack of youth participation in his community. Looking around, Milan realized there were few places where young people in the Rockaways could grow and learn to be great leaders. Therefore the vision of RYTF came to fruition - an advocacy organization created and ran by the youth of the Rockaways to properly address youth issues in the community.

Having founded RYTF at just 21 years of age, Milan's mettle as a community leader was tested only a year later, when Hurricane Sandy devastated the Rockaways in 2012. Along with his small team, Milan mobilized an extensive relief effort in his community, delivering supplies and hot meals to elderly citizens stranded in high-rise apartments throughout Rockaway, creating comprehensive delivery routes and amassing large supply caches. Milan's leadership has been recognized by Black Entertainment Television (BET) during the 2013 BET Honors program, alongside Lisa Leslie, Bishop TD Jakes and Halle Berry.

Milan's innovative approach to business, youth and technology has transcended the not-for-profit world, making him a sought-after expert and public speaker.

Renée Crowley



Housing Recovery Coordinator at Fifth Avenue Committee Greater New York City Area Industry Architecture & Planning
Educate clients on recovery resources and made referrals to community partners and government programs

- Coordinate outreach strategies and events families to recovery resources

- Advocating for equitable resiliency policy and planning
- Create recovery and resiliency guidance materials

Development and Communications Associate - Fifth Avenue Committee -

- Composed grant applications, reports and correspondence to foundations, corporate and government funders
- Developed and maintained public relations materials including content for website, newsletters and marketing materials
- Planned large and small fundraising and donor events